

CHAPTER XIV: EARTHQUAKE 1906

Early in 1904 the City of San Francisco asked the U.S. Army if the city could depend on the military for the use of explosives in removing buildings and structures in the event of a conflagration. Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur responded by directing the Presidio of San Francisco to prepare a memorandum listing the material necessary to cooperate effectively.¹ Two years later, 1906, no hint of pending disaster entered the minds of the Presidio garrison. The complement then consisted of units from the infantry, cavalry, field artillery, coast artillery, and the hospital corps. On the last day of March the post return stated that the Presidio's strength stood at 52 officers and 1,499 enlisted men.²

The barracks at East and West Cantonments remained crowded at least some of the time as reinforcements for the Pacific passed through. This condition became apparent in 1906 when the post surgeon recommended that the double bunks (one bunk above the other) be eliminated due to injuries caused by men falling out of the upper bunks. The post quartermaster replied that it was only by the use of the double bunks that a company could be housed in one of the small, wooden barracks building. He further argued that single bunks would reduce the accommodations by half even though it was necessary to retain all the West Cantonment and as much of the East Cantonment as possible for casuals.³

As spring came to the Presidio's hills and vales, the post headquarters continued to prescribe the proper military life. Soldiers learned that they could not appear on barracks porches in shirt sleeves or coats unbuttoned. One woman was allowed to visit her husband-prisoner for ten minutes one Sunday; other wives were denied this opportunity a few weeks later. A crisis on officers' row occurred when a surgeon poisoned the Irish setter puppy of his lieutenant neighbor because dogs had been killing his chickens. A Board of Officers met to investigate the incident. The proceedings called for headquarters issuing two letters, one to the lieutenant for allowing his dog to leave his premises, and one to the surgeon for his

1. Board of Fire Commissioners, San Francisco, February 20, 1904, to Morris, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

2. PSF, Post Returns, March 1906: Company B, Hospital Corps. Troops I, K, and M, 14th Cavalry. Companies 10, 27, 29, 38, 60, 65, 66, 70, and 105, Coast Artillery. Batteries 1, 4, and 24, Field Artillery. Companies I and L, 22d Infantry.

3. G.R. Nugent, March 7, 1906, to Post Adjutant, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

unwarranted action. He should have reported the problem to the post commander.⁴

Higher-ranking officers attended a magnificent dinner at the Palace Hotel in honor of Maj. Gen. Samuel S. Sumner who was acting as division commander in the absence of Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur:

The dinner was not too heavy: blue points [oysters], a clear green turtle soup, pompano cooked in paper wrappers, sweetbreads served under glass, mallard duck, alligator pears for salad, an ice and coffee. Cucumbers were served with fish and celery with the soup. delicious gibson appetizers [martinis] were brought to the drawing room before we went down and during dinner White Rock, Rhine wine, champagne and cordials in due course; cigarettes and cigars coming on with the coffee.⁵

Before dawn, Wednesday, April 18, 1906, Capt. Meriwether Lewis Walker, an Engineer officer and the commanding officer of the Presidio's neighbor Fort Mason, was awakened by the shaking of his bed:

At about 5:10 A.M. . . . I was awakened by terrific shaking of the house and rushed out. Upon inspection the damage to my quarters seemed very slight and I concluded that it was not a really severe shock and returned to my bed and fell sleep.

About 6:45 . . . I was awakened by a call at my door and found a civilian who said General Funston . . . ordered that I bring all available men to the Hall of Justice at once and report to the Mayor [Eugene E. Schmitz] for duty, as the City was all in flames.⁶

Thus occurred the great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.

At that time General MacArthur still roamed Asia on his military survey. General Sumner had retired in February. Maj. Gen. Adolphus W. Greely had assumed temporary command of the Pacific Division in March and had just left San Francisco on a visit to the East Coast. Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, commanding the Department of California and now the senior army officer in the Bay Area, took charge of the mounting disaster.⁷

4. General Orders 1, January 4, 1906; Capt. Burgess, January 12, 1906, to Mrs. James Gentry and January 31 to R. Patterson, Letters Sent; Morris, February 26, 1906, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

5. Jocelyn, *Mostly Alkali*, p. 374.

6. M.L. Walker, May 11, 1906, General Correspondence 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77, NA.

7. Adolphus Washington Greely entered the Army as an enlisted man during the Civil War. By the end of that war he held the rank of captain and had been wounded three times. In 1882 he led a scientific expedition of twenty-five men to the Canadian arctic, 1882-1883 having been designated the first International Polar Year. Supply

As soon as the first shock came, Funston left his private residence at 1310 Washington Street and walked to Nob Hill. From there he saw fires starting in the business district (the city's water mains had been broken). By the time he reached California and Sansome streets he had decided to order out troops to guard federal buildings and to assist the police and fire departments. Reaching the quartermaster stables on Pine Street, he sent messages to Captain Walker at Fort Mason and Col. Charles Morris commanding the Presidio to turn out their troops. Funston returned to his residence and instructed his family to flee (the residence burned) and then proceeded to his offices in the Phelan Building at Market and O'Farrell streets.⁸

Fort Mason's Engineers (5 officers and 150 men) moved out at 7:15 a.m. and marched to the Hall of Justice to report to Mayor Schmitz. They took up posts along Market Street, two men to a block, with instructions to shoot looters. They also guarded in the vicinity of the City Hall and its \$7 million of city funds. Troops from the Presidio arrived in the downtown area shortly after, their task being to force citizens to keep two blocks back from the spreading fires. Other soldiers assisted clerks in removing army

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and relief ships failed to reach the base camp on Ellesmere Island in both 1882 and 1883 and during the winter of 1883 all of the expedition except Greely and six men died. Rescued in June 1884, Greely at first received criticism for the disaster but it soon became clear that he had exercised good leadership. Praise came his way and in 1887 he was promoted four ranks to brigadier general and became the Army's Chief Signal Officer. He held that rank until arriving at San Francisco as a major general. Greely retired in 1908. McHenry, ed., *Webster's American Military Biographies*.

8. Frederick Funston, "How the Army Worked to Save San Francisco," *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, 40: 239-243. A few days later the Army prepared a list of properties it leased in the city at that time:

- One building, 649-657 Mission Street, Quartermaster and Medical Supply Depot, monthly rent \$1,500
- One building, 40-42 and 44 Spear Street, Subsistence Storehouse, \$400.
- One building, Folsom and Spear Streets, Quartermaster Storehouse, \$425.
- One building, 1221 Pine Street, Stable Quartermaster Depot, \$75.
- 4th Floor, Phelan Building, Market and O'Farrell streets, Office for Department of California, \$900.
- 8th Floor, Grant Building, Office for Pacific Division, \$333.
- One building, New Montgomery, Jessie, and Annie streets, Quartermaster Offices and Storeroom, \$667.
- 3 rooms, Rialto Building, Recruiting Station, \$100.
- Wharf, Folsom Street, Transport Service, \$1,500.
- Wharf, Washington Street, *General McDowell*, \$120.
- Wharf, Washington Street, *General Mifflin*, \$120.
- Offices: Total, \$6,139 per month.

Officers and men associated with these activities occupied rented quarters in the city. "List of Property Rented in San Francisco, Calif." April 23, 1906, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Back in 1898 when Funston waited at San Francisco to go overseas, he married Miss Ella Blankhart, an Oakland socialite. Now they lost their fine home near Nob Hill.

records from the Phelan Building; wagons carried them to the safety of Fort Mason. But when a second, severe shock struck at 8 a.m., Funston ordered this rescue to halt. (The records of the Quartermaster and Engineer departments were lost to the fires.) Troops from Angel Island (infantry) and Fort Miley (coast artillery) came to the downtown area about 10 a.m. and took up guard duty at the Sub-Treasury, the U.S. Mint, and maintained firelines. Artillery, rather ineptly, dynamited strategic structures in an effort to control the fires. During this endeavor a premature explosion fatally wounded Lt. Charles Pulis, 24th Battery, Field Artillery.

Col. Charles Morris from the Presidio became commander of all army units. The first general order he promulgated directed the destruction of all hard liquor in the stores and shops. Toward evening on the 18th many of the regular troops pulled back to patrol the area west of Van Ness Avenue where vast throngs had gathered to escape the fires. By the morning of April 19 four square miles of the city of 400,000 people were on fire and both the Grant and Phelan buildings had been destroyed. Funston established a temporary headquarters in General Greely's quarters at Fort Mason.⁹

At some point during Wednesday the San Francisco Depot Quartermaster, Maj. Carroll A. Devol,¹⁰ sent a telegram to the War Department: "Terrible earthquake at 5:15 this morning buildings on fire all over lower part of city no water Mission street quartermaster and commissary depots burned to the ground office building and store house 36 New Montgomery st. now on fire small hope of saving no fire at dock pulled [army transport] Buford out in stream saved most of records and sent to Presidio." Washington responded immediately. The Quartermaster General dispatched forty-three telegrams on April 19 to army headquarters and supply depots throughout the nation – New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Seattle, Tacoma, Denver, and elsewhere. Immediately trains loaded with supplies headed toward the Bay Area: blankets, tents, stoves, stovepipe, bedsacks, tent pins, urinals, typewriters, office supplies, and cots. Only one incident has been noted where an army organization failed to act promptly. Washington asked the Department of Colorado at Denver to explain why it took nearby Fort Logan forty hours to prepare

9. Funston, "How the Army Worked," pp. 244-247; Morris, July 7, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393. Although the Engineer troops from Fort Mason had orders to shoot looters, it is quite clear from the reports of all five officers that they had no cause to fire their weapons.

10. Colonel Devol had earlier served as the construction quartermaster at Fort Yellowstone, Wyoming, during the time the U.S. Cavalry administered the national park. He retired from the Army with the rank of major general in 1916. Later, his son-in-law, Maj. George H. Brett, became the first commanding officer of Crissy Field at the Presidio.

canvas for shipment to California. In addition to supplies, the War Department ordered a number of battalions of infantry and cavalry at western forts to hold themselves in readiness for temporary duty at San Francisco.

The Red Cross, cities, and citizen groups throughout the United States also contributed to the relief. Foreign countries also forwarded funds. Japan alone contributed \$246,000.¹¹

A week later General Greely, who had returned to San Francisco on April 23, wrote that enormous quantities of supplies had arrived causing congestion. Even army transports *Crook*, *Warren*, and *Buford* had been pressed into service as temporary storehouses. On May 4 Devol reported that he had unloaded 860 railroad cars and 19 steamers of relief supplies and distributed them. He had spent \$30,000, had current expenses of \$2,500 a day, and was fast running out of funds. A day later he announced that more than enough supplies had arrived in the Bay Area.

Later, Devol prepared long lists of all supplies issued to the sufferers, the destitute, and the Relief Committees – thousands of tents, tent flies, more than 3½ million tent pins, mattresses, bedsacks, blankets, cots, cooking utensils, buckets, ranges, clothing, shoes, even wheelbarrows. Estimates of the monetary value amounted to more than \$1.6 million.¹²

On April 21 the Army reported that the San Francisco conflagration seemed to be under control. Additional troops had arrived in the city – from Alcatraz and Fort Baker on April 19, Presidio of Monterey on April 21, Vancouver Barracks on April 22. After he resumed command General Greely wrote that the disaster had brought under his control the largest force – army, marine, and navy – that had ever worked together in peacetime.¹³

11. QMG, Washington, April 19, telegrams; and April 21 to Chief Quartermaster, Department of California; Military secretary, War Department, April 25, 1906, to Northern and Southwestern Divisions, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Robert A. Wilson and Bill Hosokawa, *East to America, A History of the Japanese in the United States* (New York: William Morrow, 1980), p. 53.

12. Greely, April 26, 1906, to War Department; Devol, May 4, 5, and 10, 1906, to QMG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Added to the Army's expenses were the \$2½ million worth of quartermaster supplies lost in the fires.

13. Chief Quartermaster, Fort Mason, April 21, 1906, to War Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; A.W. Greely, *Reminiscences of Adventure and Service* (1927), p. 224; Kinnard, "History of the Golden Gate," pp. 316-318.

Greely first maintained the temporary headquarters at Fort Mason that Funston had established. On May 2 Funston moved his department headquarters to Tennessee Hollow, the Presidio's West Cantonment. A day later Greely moved his division headquarters to East Cantonment.¹⁴

On April 23 Greely held a meeting at Fort Mason with Mayor Schmitz, General Funston, and city officials. Schmitz told Greely that he would ask California's Governor George C. Pardee to remove the state's National Guard from the city at once, it having come under a cloud for lacking discipline. Greely assured the mayor that the U.S. Army would not intervene in the relations between the municipal and state authorities but that he would do anything necessary to safeguard the city. About the same time Greely assumed command of the Army's relief operations and he assigned Funston back to managing the operations of the Department of California. (Some critics felt that Greely took exception to some of Funston's decisions, such as his imposition of harsh directives.)¹⁵

At a second Fort Mason meeting on April 26, attended by the Citizens Committee of Fifty and Governor Pardee, the governor defended the actions of the National Guard who remained in the city for the time being. General Greely announced that the Army had taken full control of the relief stations for the distribution of food. The next day the War Department authorized the presence of U.S. Army troops in the city; finally, the soldiers were there officially. By then more than 200,000 people required food and shelter.¹⁶

The Army organized the San Francisco area into six military districts each with its own headquarters. Of these, No. 1 was at the Presidio; No. 2 organized at Golden Gate Park; and Fort Mason became the site of No. 3. It also established a system of camps for the refugees as soon as possible. Camp 15 at Fort Mason occupied the southwest portion of that reservation. Kittycorner from it, to the southwest, stood Camp 9 on Lobos Square. Four tent camps holding at least 16,000 people sprang up on the Presidio: near the U.S. General Hospital, in the Cantonment area, on the southern boundary adjacent to the golf links, and on the

14. M.L. Walker, May 11, 1906, to A. Mackenzie, General Correspondence 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77, NA; *Presidial Weekly Clarion*, April 27, 1906.

15. Greely, April 23, 1906, to War Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Thomas and Witts, *San Francisco Earthquake*, p. 273, describes Funston's imposition of "near martial law."

16. *The San Francisco Call*, April 27, 1906; Thomas and Witts, *Earthquake*, p. 273.

future site of the Fort Winfield Scott's parade ground (Chinese refugees occupied this camp.) In order to administer to these camps all of Fort Mason's troops and a good part of the Presidio's withdrew from the city where other troop units replaced them.¹⁷

A great and enduring controversy arising from the disaster concerned the shooting of looters by soldiers. In a recently published book about the earthquake the author wrote, "The troops were more effective in dealing with looting. By early afternoon – again acting on orders issued solely by Brigadier General Funston – about a dozen looters in various parts of the city were summarily executed without trial." Again, "the city's newspapers reported later, the soldiers had bagged up to one hundred citizens of San Francisco."¹⁸

General Funston wrote in 1906:

There was no necessity for the regular troops to shoot anybody and there is no well-authorized case of a single person having been killed by regular troops.

Two men were killed by the state troops under circumstances with which I am not familiar . . . and one prominent citizen was ruthlessly slain by self-constituted vigilantes.

If there is any lesson to be derived from the work of the regular troops in San Francisco, it is that nothing can take the place of training and discipline, and that self-control and patience are as important as courage.¹⁹

General Greely reported that nine men had been violently killed:

two killed by the California National Guard
one shot by the so-called citizens' vigilance committee
one shot by a police officer for looting
one shot by a special police officer and a Marine
four shot by unknown parties, these occurring at places not
occupied by regular troops.

17. *Presidial Weekly Clarion*, April 27, 1906; Adolphus W. Greely, *Earthquake in California*, April 18, 1906 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906), map.

18. Thomas and Witts, *Earthquake*, pp. 131-132.

19. Funston, "How the Army Worked," p. 248.

Later, Greely recorded that a total of 500 citizens had died in the earthquake.²⁰

In *San Francisco Horror*, written in 1906, the authors, who had the utmost admiration for Funston and his soldiers, wrote openly about soldiers shooting civilians, "The War Department had been morally responsible for the unhesitating way in which the troops shot down looters and the people who refused to understand that great situations must be controlled without regard to law."²¹

As the troops returned to their quarters, their officers prepared reports on the occupations. Captain Walker wrote of his Fort Mason Engineers, "I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the Officers and men under me during this trying period. Everyone has worked day and night, not a shirker or grumbler in the crowd, and none have spared themselves. A list of men deserving special commendation would be almost a duplication of our rolls." While the commander of 9th Battery, Field Artillery, reported no special cases of bravery by his men had come to his notice, another Presidio company officer submitted the names of two artillerymen, Cpl. John E. McSweeny and Pvt. James B. Tuck, for outstanding work in demolishing dangerous walls in the city.²²

As late as early August some Presidio soldiers continued to stand guard at the Sub-Treasury building and the ruins of the Depot Quartermaster's storehouse in the city. Colonel Morris requested their return to the Presidio where they were much needed; guards from other posts could replace them.

The Presidio of San Francisco, while lending its manpower and experience to the City of San Francisco during its terrible ordeal, took the time to evaluate the effects of the earthquake upon its own facilities. On the whole, the reservation escaped with relatively little damage. Colonel Morris's report at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, recorded that the two adobe officers' quarters (the duplex, 16-1 and 2) and its neighbor (the single set, 21) had been wrecked along with the new Corral (BOQ) then numbered 139 (later, 42) and containing sixteen sets of quarters for single officers. The five double sets of brick

20. Greely, *Earthquake*, p. 12, and *Reminiscences*, p. 220. See also James J. Hudson, "The California National Guard in the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906," *California Historical Quarterly*, 55: 137-149.

21. *Complete Story of the San Francisco Horror*. Introduction by Samuel Fallows (n.p. Hubert D. Russell, 1906), p. 172.

22. Walker, May 11, 1906, to Chief of Engineers, General Correspondence 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77, NA; CO, 9th Battery, FA, June 1, 1906, to CO, PSF; and L.V. Coleman, May 2, 1906, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

barracks (101-105) were "extensively" damaged and clearly demonstrated the inadvisability of brick construction (adopted at the Presidio less than twenty years earlier). Morris recommended that when carrying out future plastering, wire, not wooden lathe, be used. The brick gymnasium-post exchange building (122) suffered severe damage. On the whole, the older wood-frame buildings withstood the earthquake. A board of officers examined the two adobe quarters and concluded they were too dangerous for occupancy and recommended they be condemned and torn down.

The *Baltimore Sun* newspaper published an alarming article in April saying that the big "13-inch" coastal guns at San Francisco had been cracked and twisted by the earthquake. Also, their massive concrete emplacements had been damaged and the Presidio's armament, "the main defense," had become practically useless. When the Army actually evaluated the damage to the coastal batteries, it concluded they had survived the earthquake virtually unscathed. The total cost to repair the damage amounted to \$1,983. An engineer officer, Maj. C.H. McKinstry, in a battery by battery report of inspection, wrote, "Lest the report that Battery Chamberlin was "wrecked" has reached the Department . . . it should be said that the battery was practically uninjured, except that a surface drain . . . cracked."

The old masonry fort at Fort Point suffered a little more damage. The troops of the 66th Company, Coast Artillery, then occupying the fort fled promptly when the earthquake struck, most without their trousers. The damage to the structure, however, was not severe. The bridge from the bluff to the top of the fort had fallen down. The six-foot thick, brick south (landward) wall of the fort had moved outward from the structure about eight inches. While the Lighthouse Board promptly repaired the wooden bridge, the Army did nothing about the wall, preferring to spend its funds on the modern fortifications. In 1913, on the eve of the Panama-Pacific Exposition the Army finally expended about \$2,000 in repairing the wall and in generally cleaning up the area. Other damage to buildings on the Presidio reservation included repairing chimneys, plastered walls, some underpinning, roof gutters, and windows. The total estimate for repairs came to \$127,320.²³

23. Morris, June 30, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent RG 393; Proceedings of a Board of Officers, May 18, 1906; J.L. Clem, June 20, 1906, Report of Earthquake Damage; Chief quartermaster, Department of California, May 1, 1906, to QMG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92; PSF Special Orders 111, May 9, 1906, Post Orders 1906-1907; C.H. McKinstry, May 8, 1906 to Chief of Engineers, San Francisco District Letters Received, OCE, RG 77, NA; Bearss, *Fort Point*, pp 325-334; *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1906.

When Colonel Morris prepared his annual report for 1906, he discussed the earthquake damage at the Presidio and his troops' contributions to the wrecked city. He continued the report by discussing the constant lack of adequate barracks at the Presidio. He said there were accommodations for either the four cavalry troops or the three field artillery batteries, but not both. To him, the cavalry was the more important. In addition to its national park duties, it was at hand in the event of unusual contingencies occurring in the city. Also, cavalry patrols on the large reservation remained essential. He recommended that the field artillery be transferred.²⁴

Another complaint expressed by the colonel concerned the rapid turnover of the coast artillery company commanders. He believed the constant rotation was disastrous to efficiency. Since January 1901 the average length of time these captains served was only one year and four months before transferring. Other concerns that Morris broached were the need for a larger chapel, new YMCA building, bunkhouse for civilian teamsters, and completion of the boundary wall and an iron railing on top to keep out intruders.²⁵

The Presidio acquired a new school on April 1, 1906, that promised to be of great benefit to the Pacific Division - the Training School of Bakers and Cooks. During the Spanish-American War much of the sickness among the ranks was attributed to the lack of trained cooks. In 1905 the War Department established the first school for bakers and cooks at Fort Riley, Kansas. Now, in addition to the Presidio, schools became a reality at Washington Barracks, D.C., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Colonel Morris urged that a barracks be erected for the students; for now the sixty-eight men camped on the lower parade ground in tents. Meanwhile, he considered moving the hospital company out of the brick barracks and relocating it to one of the cantonments. The cook-students could then move into the brick barracks where they would be close to their classes - in the bakeries and various kitchens. The post commissary, Capt. H.T. Ferguson, further described the school. He said that it was divided into four squads of ten men each. Four of the best cooks in the Department of California served as instructors. Classes lasted four months and the school should graduate 120 cooks annually.²⁶

24. Morris, June 30, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA. The field artillery remained at the Presidio much longer than did Colonel Morris.

25. *Ibid.*

26. *Ibid.*, Morris, September 13, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent; Ferguson, June 19, 1906, to Adjutant, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA; Erna Risch, *Quartermaster Support of the Army, A History of the Corps, 1775-1939*

Another Presidio course of instruction of importance at this time was the School for Noncommissioned Officers. Following an inspection of the school in 1906, Morris outlined the curriculum:

School for Noncommissioned Officers

1. a. Drill Regulations, lessons assigned and recitations held.
 b. Army Regulations, paragraphs relating to enlisted men explained.
 c. Minor Tactics, lectures and explanation of textbook.
 d. Special Subjects both practical and theoretical, reading and explaining.
2. Infantry. Drill Regulations. Rudiments of Infantry Fire. Hasty Entrenchments.
 Cavalry. Drill Regulations, horses, saddles, and bridles. Outpost work. Stable
 management of refractory animals. Road sketching and map reading.
 Field Artillery. Drill regulations. Handbook for the 3" breech loading rifle,
 horse shoeing.
 Coast Artillery. Infantry drill regulations. Provisional drill. Gunner's handbook.²⁷

As with other years, the Presidio's history in 1906 recorded the usual and the unusual. In July the funeral of the late Brig. Gen. Louis H. Rucker took place in the post chapel. He had joined the Army as a private at the outbreak of the Civil War. He spent his career in the cavalry, retiring in 1903. A new order issued in June warned the wives of enlisted men that if they did laundry for officers' families, they must charge less than commercial laundries in the city. Enlisted men read that tattoos on any part of the body were forbidden - injurious to health and a sign of degeneracy. The discovery of a human arm wrapped in a woman's skirt near the General Hospital caused only a little alarm. It appeared to be the results of a dissection by medical students. In December a severe windstorm hit the San Francisco headlands. It blew over a barracks at Fort Miley and at the Presidio damaged slate roofs, windows, and fences to the tune of \$2,350.²⁸

Brig. Gen. and Mrs. John J. Pershing arrived at San Francisco in October 1906 to take temporary command of the Department of California from General Funston. Pershing most recently had been a

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(Washington: Government Printing Office, 1989), p. 587.

27. Morris, Report of Construction of Post schools, February 11, 1906, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

28. PSF Special Orders 160, July 11, 1906; Circular 12, June 20, 1906; and General Orders 27, June 26, 1906; Morris, June 1, 1906, to Department of California, RG 393; Hazard, December 12, 1906, to QMG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

military attache in Tokyo and an observer in the Russo-Japanese War. A month before, President Theodore Roosevelt had promoted Pershing from captain to brigadier general, over the heads of 862 senior officers. On November 3 *The San Francisco Call* reported that Pershing had taken the command and that Funston was leaving to command the Southwestern Division, Oklahoma City. The Secretary of War wanted Pershing to remain in San Francisco only until January 1 when he was to ship to the Philippines to succeed a retiring general. Pershing, however, departed San Francisco only ten days after assuming command.

While the military reason for his departure remains unknown, *The San Francisco Call* in December 1906 headlined an article "Filipino Spouse is Pershing's Undoing." His Filipino marriage that allegedly produced two children "is said to explain Pershing's hurried departure from San Francisco." *The Call* probably got its information from the *Manila American* that broke the story. Pershing denied the story and returned to the Philippines where he served three more tours. He would return to San Francisco and the Presidio.²⁹

The time had come, too, for Col. Charles Morris to turn over the Presidio to a successor. He had served as the commanding officer for the past thirty-eight months. Morris transferred to another coast artillery post, Fort Williams in Maine. The new commanding officer, Col. John A. Lundeen, took over the Presidio of San Francisco before the last day of November.

It had been a trying year. The Presidio and the other army posts had been called upon to rescue the stricken city and its inhabitants. On the whole the troops and their officers had performed well despite the immense problems they faced in April and the following months. General Funston later received criticism for his forceful actions in the first days following the earthquake even though in his very first orders and succeeding instructions he placed the troops under the civil authorities. A few soldiers tarnished the endeavors and accomplishments of the many. The U.S. Army had performed well and the city and fort relationships were strengthened even further – after sixty years of association.

29. *The San Francisco Call*, October 21, 23, November 3, and December 20 and 21, 1906; Donald Smythe, *Guerrilla Warrior The Early Life of John J. Pershing* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973), pp. 125-130. Ironically, the *Call* had followed Pershing's career in the past, noting his 1905 marriage to Helen Frances Warren, the daughter of U.S. Senator Francis E. Warren, Wyoming, as well as Pershing's promotion to general.